IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-15.

Please add new claims 16-48 as follows:

16. (New) A method of fracturing a subterranean formation, comprising:

forming a base fluid by blending together water and a carboxylated guar polymer, and by excluding cation producing additives;

adding a crosslinking agent to the base fluid to form a gel; and

injecting the gel into at least a portion of the subterranean formation at high pressure to form fractures within the formation;

wherein a test gel of the carboxylated guar polymer maintains a viscosity of at least 360 cps at 105 s^{-1}, after viscosity testing maintained for seven hours at a shear rate of 105 s^{-1} and a temperature of 150 °F; and wherein said test gel is prepared by adding 0.9 gram of said carboxylated guar polymer to 500 ml of water containing 0.5ml of a 50 weight percent aqueous TMAC solution; rapidly agitating the water, carboxylated guar polymer and TMAC for 30 minutes; adjusting the pH to 5.1 with glacial acetic acid; and then adding 0.50 ml of a zirconium lactate based crosslinking agent, which has a zirconium concentration measured and reported as the oxide of 8.5 weight percent ZrO_2, with good agitation until gelation occurs.

17. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the concentration of the carboxylated guar polymer in the base fluid is about 20 pounds or less per 1,000 gallons.

18. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the concentration of the carboxylated guar polymer in the base fluid is about 15 pounds or less per 1,000 gallons.

19. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the concentration of the carboxylated guar polymer in the base fluid is about 10 pounds or less per 1,000 gallons.

20. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the carboxylated guar polymer comprises carboxymethyl guar.

21. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the carboxylated guar polymer comprises carboxymethylhydroxypropyl guar.

22. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the pH of the gel is between about 3.5 and about 12.

23. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the crosslinking agent in the gel comprises a zirconium compound.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the zirconium compound comprises a member selected from the group consisting of zirconium lactate, zirconium glycolate, and zirconium lactate triethanloamine.

25. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the forming a base fluid further comprises adding a tetramethylammonium halide.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the tetramethylammonium halide comprises tetramethylammonium chloride.

27. (New) A method of fracturing a subterranean formation, comprising:

forming a base fluid by blending together water and a carboxylated guar polymer, and by excluding cation producing additives;

adding a crosslinking agent to the base fluid to form a gel; and

injecting the gel into at least a portion of the subterranean formation at high pressure to form fractures within the formation;

wherein a test gel of the carboxylated guar polymer maintains a viscosity of at least 618 cps at 105 s^{-1}, after viscosity testing maintained for four hours at a shear rate of 105 s^{-1} and a temperature of 150 °F; and wherein said test gel is prepared by adding 0.9 gram of said carboxylated guar polymer to 500 ml of water containing 0.5 ml of a 50 weight percent aqueous TMAC solution; rapidly agitating the water, carboxylated

guar polymer and TMAC for 30 minutes; adjusting the pH to 11.4 with 46 weight percent aqueous potassium hydroxide; and then adding 0.25 ml of a zirconium lactate based crosslinking agent, which has a zirconium concentration measured and reported as the oxide of 8.5 weight percent ZrO_2, with good agitation until gelation occurs.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the concentration of the carboxylated guar polymer in the base fluid is about 20 pounds or less per 1,000 gallons.

29. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the concentration of the carboxylated guar polymer in the base fluid is about 15 pounds or less per 1,000 gallons.

30. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the concentration of the carboxylated guar polymer in the base fluid is about 10 pounds or less per 1,000 gallons.

31. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the carboxylated guar polymer comprises carboxymethyl guar.

32. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the carboxylated guar polymer comprises carboxymethylhydroxypropyl guar.

33. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the pH of the gel is between about 3.5 and about 12.

34. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the crosslinking agent in the gel comprises a zirconium compound.

35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the zirconium compound comprises a member selected from the group consisting of zirconium lactate, zirconium glycolate, and zirconium lactate triethanloamine.

36. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the forming a base fluid further comprises adding a tetramethylammonium halide.

37. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the tetramethylammonium halide comprises tetramethylammonium chloride.

38. (New) A method of fracturing a subterranean formation, comprising:

forming a base fluid by blending together water and a carboxylated guar polymer, and by excluding cation producing additives;

adding a crosslinking agent to the base fluid to form a gel; and

injecting the gel into at least a portion of the subterranean formation at high pressure to form fractures within the formation;

wherein a test gel of the carboxylated guar polymer maintains a viscosity of at least 270 cps at 105 s^{-1}, after viscosity testing maintained for four hours at a shear rate of 105 s^{-1} and a temperature of 230 °F; and wherein said test gel is prepared by adding 0.9 gram of said carboxylated guar polymer to 500 ml of water containing 0.5 ml of a 50 weight percent aqueous TMAC solution and 0.6 grams of sodium thiosulfate; rapidly agitating the water, carboxylated guar polymer and TMAC for 30 minutes; adjusting the pH to 11.35 with 46 weight percent aqueous potassium hydroxide; and then adding 0.25 ml of a zirconium lactate based crosslinking agent, which has a zirconium concentration measured and reported as the oxide of 8.5 weight percent ZrO_2, with good agitation until gelation occurs.

39. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the concentration of the carboxylated guar polymer in the base fluid is about 20 pounds or less per 1,000 gallons.

40. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the concentration of the carboxylated guar polymer in the base fluid is about 15 pounds or less per 1,000 gallons.

41. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the concentration of the carboxylated guar polymer in the base fluid is about 10 pounds or less per 1,000 gallons.

42. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the carboxylated guar polymer comprises carboxymethyl guar.

43. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the carboxylated guar polymer comprises carboxymethylhydroxypropyl guar.

44. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the pH of the gel is between about 3.5 and about 12.

45. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the crosslinking agent in the gel comprises a zirconium compound.

46. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein the zirconium compound comprises a member selected from the group consisting of zirconium lactate, zirconium glycolate, and zirconium lactate triethanloamine.

47. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the forming a base fluid further comprises adding a tetramethylammonium halide.

48. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein the tetramethylammonium halide comprises tetramethylammonium chloride.